

bills that would transfer millions of acres of public land to state and commercial jurisdiction. But the most urgent example of bad legislation is an omnibus appropriations bill now under consideration in a House-Senate conference. The bill sharply reduces appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Department and contains a dozen or so crippling anti-environmental riders. The worst of these riders would authorize increased logging in old-growth forests, reduce protection for the Mojave National Preserve, strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its power to protect wetlands and extend an earlier moratorium on any new listings of endangered plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act.

The listings rider should be of special interest to the viewers of those nature programs. Under law, the Interior Department cannot act to preserve the habitat of an endangered species unless it is listed as such. Among the 250 species that scientists think are dangerously close to extinction, but cannot now be listed by the department's Fish and Wildlife Service, are three that occasionally pop up on TV—the Florida black bear, the Atlantic salmon and the Mexican jaguar. Unless Congress comes to its senses, these and other creatures may survive only on celluloid.

Today marks the 26th anniversary of Earth Day. In full knowledge of that, House Speaker Newt Gingrich recently formed a 77-member Republican environmental task force. Although 36 members of this task force earned "zero" ratings from the League of Conservation Voters for their routine support of anti-environmental legislation, many of them are likely to spend the week planting trees, visiting zoos and striking friendly poses next to recycling bins. But the best thing Mr. Gingrich could do for his country and his party would be to recognize that what counts here is content, not imagery—and remove those riders from the appropriations bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO JACK ELLIS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to pay tribute to a distinguished educator and a good friend, Mr. Jack Ellis. Jack is the music director at Lakeview High School in St. Clair Shores and was recently named as the Michigan Band/Orchestra Director of the Year.

I have known Jack for many years and he richly deserves the honor bestowed upon him. As in the hit film, Mr. Holland's *Opus*, Jack has been inspiring aspiring musicians and sharing his love of music for years. As one of his many talented students says, "[Jack] knows his music, but he teaches it in a down-to-earth way \* \* \* He's humorous and he puts things at a level where we can understand it have fun."

It is obvious that his students "understand" because Lakeview's band and orchestra have received numerous awards and honors under Jack's tutelage. The band was Michigan's representative at the re-lighting of the Statue of Liberty and they have received many division one ratings at district festivals.

"Mister E," as Jack is fondly known by his students, makes sure to give all his students the individual attention they need. One thing I know he is proud of is the fact that he has

never turned a student away. As Jack says, "Not everyone has the gift of music. But if they've had a desire to be a part of this program, then we've found them a place."

While Jack also teaches honors European history and world studies, his passion is music. He says that the lessons learned in music cannot be gotten anywhere else. The discipline and cooperation required to create music brings diverse students together in a setting seldom found in any other subject or extracurricular activity. It is obvious that the harmonies created in Jack Ellis' class go far beyond what is merely heard by the ear.

Jack's wife Joellyn is also an award-winning teacher. She was honored as Lakeview Public School's Elementary Teacher of the Year. The students at Ardmore Elementary and Lakeview High School are lucky to have such gifted teachers and I am pleased to recognize their contributions. I commend both of them for their educational and civic contributions.

I congratulate Jack Ellis for the recognition he received from the State of Michigan and I urge my colleagues to join with me in thanking him for his work. He is proud to be a music teacher and he richly deserves being named Director of the Year.

#### IN TRIBUTE—NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with countless Americans who are staunch supporters of the rights of victims of crime. This is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Almost any daily newspaper you read will have front page headlines that scream out accounts of violent acts perpetrated against a host of victims. Readers are bombarded by statistics on murders, armed robberies, rapes, gang violence, domestic violence, drugs and much, much more. Where are the stories about the victims of those crimes? When is the last time that you read an account of the impact of a victim's statement on the outcome of a legal proceeding? All too often, victims are the last thought of while the criminal is protected by a long list of rights.

Those who work on behalf of victims of crime rarely receive the recognition that they deserve. Advocates come from all walks of life. Some are professionals, people who try to make a difference. Most, however, are volunteers who give selflessly of their time, energy and talents.

They are tireless; they are insistent; they are creative.

Along with my husband, Dexter Lehtinen, I worked on placing the protection of victims' rights in Florida's Constitution and then pressured the agencies to implement the provisions.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a time of reflection and a call to action. As an example of what a concerned community can achieve, I would like to share with you just a few of the accomplishments of victims' rights advocates from the Miami area. In selecting just a few examples, I salute the work of these individuals. But more importantly, by exten-

sion, I would like to pay tribute to all to have taken up this cause.

Victims themselves are often the best advocates. They have turned their misfortune, their grieving toward some wonderfully positive activities. John Walsh, father of six-year-old Adam, was instrumental in the founding of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He will never have Adam back, but Adam's spirit is alive through the Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ryce, grieving over the loss of their son, Jimmy, have stepped forward to share their message with anyone who will listen. They are working to establish a special training center at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children which will be dedicated to educating law enforcement officers in how to investigate these sensitive cases, as well as bettering coordination among all our law enforcement agencies.

Mr. and Mrs. Luis Melendi lost their daughter, Shannon, over 2 years ago. Shannon disappeared from a softball field near the campus of Emory University in Atlanta, GA, and has not been heard from since. The Melendi's have taken their case to the public, pushing for stronger measures to prevent known criminals from victimizing others.

Potential victims can help themselves before they become victims. Taking a proactive approach, the Miami Junior League, in conjunction with AT&T, is collecting used cellular telephones in order to give them to women at risk of domestic violence. The phones will be preprogrammed with access to 911, so that help can be summoned immediately in case of attack.

These examples highlight just a few of the many, diverse ways in which victims can assert their rights. I would especially like to highlight the work of Howard Greenstein, the Director of the Dade County Department of Justice System Support, who has been a staunch defender of victims' rights for years. May these individuals and their organizations have great success; may their creativity be encouraged and supported. May we remember the victims.

#### SIKH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 23, 1996*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sikh nation on the 297th anniversary of its founding, Vaisakhi Day, which occurred this past April 13. We join in celebrating the heritage of these courageous people.

On this Vaisakhi Day, the Sikh nation struggles to secure the blessings of liberty which we in America and most the Western World enjoy. Sikhs have long supported the idea of freedom for all people. As a free nation, it is our duty to help them live in freedom in their own country.

The Sikh nation's heritage of freedom most recently manifested itself on October 7, 1987, when the Sikh nation declared the independence of the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. Sikhs had previously ruled themselves from 1710 through 1716 and again between the years of 1765 and 1849. When Britain left the subcontinent in 1947, the Sikh nation was one of only